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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.12

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16 of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.12, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to lend all their support to the effective establishment and smooth functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

(b) Request the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the necessary support for the implementation and smooth functioning of the early-warning mechanism and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa;

(c) Also request the Secretary-General to support the establishment of a network of parliamentarians with a view to the creation of a subregional parliament in Central Africa;

(d) Request the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees in their territories;

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(e) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with assistance to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

(f) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 9, 10, 15 and 16 of the draft resolution are associated with programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as revised, and section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

3. The request contained in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution is associated with programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and the related activities are provided for under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

4. The request contained in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution is associated with programme 21, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as revised, and section 23, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, as well as the programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

5. Implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 15 and 16 of the draft resolution, regarding provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and the submission of a report to the General Assembly, would be carried out within the resources provided under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The provision contained therein covers substantive servicing of four plenary meetings of the Committee during the biennium.

6. The activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, including those related to the implementation and functioning of the early-warning mechanism and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa referred to in operative paragraph 9 and those related to the establishment of a network of parliamentarians referred to in operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, are expected to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

7. Provision for the implementation of activities related to the request contained in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, regarding support for the effective establishment and smooth functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 under section 22, Human rights.

8. Implementation of the activities related to the request contained in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, regarding increased assistance to the countries

of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees in their territories, would be subject to the availability of voluntary contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work for 2000-2001

9. Modifications would not be required to programmes 26, 19 and 21 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as revised, or to sections 4, 22 and 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

E. Potential for absorption

10. The programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 would continue to provide for substantive servicing of the two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee. Activities referred to in operative paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 would be financed by extrabudgetary resources. Additional requirements are therefore not expected to arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

F. Indication of additional requirements

11. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.12, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.